

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NRC-05 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10  
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11  
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01  
/146 W

-----119001 050746Z /10

P R 050619Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2873  
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PERTH  
AMCONSUL SYDNEY  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USEEC

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, EFIN, EMIN, EGEN, PINT, AS, JA  
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER FRASER'S TRIP TO JAPAN CONFIRMED

REF: CANBERRA 02476

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER FRASER'S TRIP TO JAPAN APRIL 18-21 (REFTEL) HAS NOW BEEN CONFIRMED BY PRESS RELAEASE WHILE ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE VISIT HAD TO BE ARRANGED SO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUICKLY THAT A TRIP THE PRIME MINISTER HAD PLANNED TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENTS HAD TO BE POSTPONED.  
END SUMMARY.

2. THE PRESS RELEASE STATES THAT:

"MR. FRASER SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WERE IMPORTANT

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THAT HE SHOULD DISCUSS WITH MR. FUKUDA, AND HE HAD SUGGESTED TO MR. FUKUDA THAT THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGE IN THEIR MEETING BEFORE MR. FUKUDA LEFT ON HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON. MR. FUKUDA HAD READILY AGREED.

"MR. FRASER SAID THE WORLD STILL FACED SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND HE WAS CONCERNED THAT ALL AVENUES BE EXPLORED TO BRING ABOUT AN IMPROVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

#HE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. FUKUDA IN AN INFORMAL AND PERSONAL WAY. HE EXPECTED THAT THESE WOULD COVER THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND MATTERS SUCH AS WORLD TRADE AND THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

"MR. FRASER STRESSED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SEEKING TO NEGOTIATE BILATERAL MATTERS WITH MR. FUKUDA ON THIS OCCASION. THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HAD ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED FROM JAPAN WHERE HE HAD HELD EXTENSIVE AND USEFUL TALKS WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS ON THESE ISSUES."

3. A SUMMARY OF THE SUBSTANCE OF AND THE REASONS FOR THE VISIT AS SEEN BY THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS FOLLOWS:

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"MR. FRASER IS ANXIOUS TO SEE MR. FUKUDA BEFORE THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER MEETS PRESIDENT CARTER EARLY NEXT MONTH.

"THE AUSTRALIAN-JAPANESE MEETING WILL DISCUSS THE OECD'S RECOMMENDATION THAT STRONGER COUNTRIES STIMULATE THEIR ECONOMIES, AND THE TREND TO INCREASING PROTECTIONISM.

"MR. FRASER WILL ALSO CANVASS AUSTRALIA'S LINE AT THIS YEAR'S MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA AND AT THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT TALKS.

"HE IS EXPECTED TO TELL MR. FUKUDA THAT HE BELIEVES INCREASED EFFORTS TO EXPAND WORLD TRADE, RATHER THAN HIGHER GOVERNMENT SPENDING BY COUNTRIES, IS THE DESIRABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC OBJECTIVE.

"BUT AUSTRALIA IS CERTAIN TO ALSO MAINTAIN THAT, BECAUSE OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, IT CANNOT LOWER ITS PROTECTION BARRIERS TO STIMULATE MORE TRADE.

"MR. FRASER WILL ALSO OUTLINE AUSTRALIA'S POSITION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON FUND TO STABILIZE INTERNATIONAL

COMMODITY PRICES.

"AUSTRALIA HAS MOVED AWAY FROM THE POSITION TAKEN BY MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WHICH OPPOSE A COMMON FUND REQUIRING GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS."

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END UNCLASSIFIED

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4. COMMENT: FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY J. C. HUMPHREYS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THEIR IS NO INTENTION TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES SINCE THE PRIME MINISTER IS SATISFIED WITH THE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ANTHONY DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO JAPAN (SEE REFTEL). HOWEVER, HE DID SAY THAT THE JAPANESE WILL BE REQUESTED TO CONFIRM THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN CANBERRA IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR AS A FOLLOW ON TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS HELD IN TOKYO FIFTEEN MONTHS AGO UNDER THE AUSTRALIA-JAPAN AGREEMENT AND THAT THE OUTLINE OF THE AGENDA OF BILATERAL ISSUES FOR

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THAT MEETING WILL LIKELY BE TABLED DURING THE PM'S VISIT TO JAPAN.

5. HUMPHREYS SAID THAT THERE IS NO FORMAL AGENDA FOR THE PM'S VISIT AND THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WILL FOCUS ON FIVE BROAD SUBJECTS VIZ, 1) THE IMPACT ON WORLD TRADE OF THE CONTINUING SLIDE OF THE UNITED STATES DOLLAR; 2) WORLD TRADE AND TENDENCIES TOWARD PROTECTIONISM; 3) THE WORLD ECONOMY AND EFFORTS BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO STIMULATE THEIR ECONOMIES; 4) RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD; AND, 5) THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY ORGANIZATION (IEO) DEBATE. HE SAID THAT THE PM IS INDEED VERY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT WORLD TRADE AND THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF THE SLOW RECOVERY IN JAPAN IN PARTICULAR ON AUSTRALIA'S PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH. ACCORDING TO HUMPHREYS, ALTHOUGH EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO KEEP THE PM'S ENTOURAGE AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE, IT HAS NOW GROWN TO SOME TWENTY PERSONS INCLUDING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PEACOCK; SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS N. F. PARKINSON; 1ST ASST. SECRETARY HUMPHREYS, DFA; 1ST ASST. SECRETARY J.D.C.C. MOORE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY; AND TWO OFFICERS EACH FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT AND FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND RESOURCES AS YET UNIDENTIFIED.

6. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE OPPOSITION WILL TAKE APART THE PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCED PROGRAM FOR THE VISIT AS WELL AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ANTHONY'S VISIT TO JAPAN AND WHAT THE OPPOSITION SEES AS THE LACK OF RESULTS THERE FROM IN A FLOOR DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT TODAY.  
ALSTON

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## Message Attributes

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